

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Ecological Resources Committee**

**August 23, 2005**

#### **ATTENDEES AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dan Corcoran (EID), Shelly Hatleberg (EN2 Resources), Tom Henie (Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District), Alice Q. Howard (ERC Member), Robert Hughes (CDFG), Cheri Jagers (EID), Len Marino (EID), Judy Molnar (Alpine County), Beth Paulson (USFS), Steve Setoodeh (EID), Bill Slightam (EID), Leonard Turnbeaugh (Alpine County Public Works), Richard D. Wentzel (ERC Member), Jann Williams (USFS)

#### **WELCOME AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTE REVIEW**

The Ecological Review Committee (ERC) convened on Tuesday, August 23, 2005, at approximately 9:05 a.m., at the offices of the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID).

Len Marino, EID Co-Hydro Division Manager, convened the meeting and asked for approval of and/or objections to Minutes from February 16, 2005. Minutes were approved with corrections. Alice Howard, ERC member, had a correction to page 2. The South Fork Peak should be the South Fork peak "flow." The corrected Minutes will be posted on the Project 184 website.

Discussion ensued about posting "draft" ERC Minutes on the EID website for public review. It was proposed that Minutes should be approved before being posted on the Project 184 website for public scrutiny. Discussion ensued regarding this issue. It was proposed and accepted that the Minutes be sent to all ERC members within two weeks of the meeting, and the ERC members will then have a two-week period in which to respond with any changes. After all changes have been incorporated into the Minutes, they will be posted as "draft" Minutes on the website and officially approved at the next ERC meeting.

Dick Wentzel, ERC member inquired if meeting notes could be provided vs. meeting minutes.

#### **PENDING LICENSE UPDATE**

Cheri Jagers, EID License Coordinator, informed the ERC that EID is still awaiting the 401 certification from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Recently, the license passed from Jim Canaday's desk (SWRCB) to the Legal Department at SWRCB. Once the legal review is complete the 45 day public-review period can begin. Ms. Jagers hopes the license will be issued by January or February 2006.

## **WATER YEAR REPORT**

### **Stream Flow and Water Storage Update**

Bill Slightham, EID Hydrographer, presented the following information regarding the various lakes:

#### **CURRENT RESERVOIR AND OUTFLOW OPERATIONS**

**Week of 08/22 through 08/31/05**

**WATER YEAR TYPE IS ABOVE NORMAL AT 117% OF NORMAL**

#### **Aloha Lake:**

- Current staff gage elevation 13.23 = 1,708 acre feet
- Outlet valve set at 45cfs with inflow at 10cfs +/-
- End of August staff gage elevation target 10.95 = 807 acre feet

#### **Echo Lake:**

- Current staff gage elevation 5.59 = 1,807 acre feet
- We may not divert water this year because of Tunnel collapse
- Outflow at 0.25 cfs +/-
- End of August staff gage elevation target 5.46 = 1,764 acre feet

#### **Caples Lake:**

- Current staff gage elevation 59.06 = 20,530 acre feet.
- Outflow set at 45cfs with inflow at 5cfs+/-
- End of August staff gage elevation target 57.85 = 19,801 acre feet

#### **Silver Lake:**

- Current staff gage elevation 19.92 = 7,274 acre feet.
- Radial gates closed.
- Outflow at 3 cfs + Oyster creek leakage of 7cfs+/- With inflow at 2cfs+/-
- End of August staff gage elevation target 19.31 = 6,982 acre feet

The ERC was informed that Echo Lake spilled for about a month following the last ERC meeting. Caples Lake spilled at approximately 10 cfs on three separate occasions. Silver Lake filled to capacity this year. The planned water diversion for September at Kyburz is 43 cfs. Lake Aloha outflow will be 10+/- cfs by September.

Repairs of the Lake Aloha Dam look great. Crews left this morning (August 23, 2005) for Lake Aloha and will be camping there to continue rodent and vegetation control, which was begun last year. This project will take approximately four days to complete.

EID's seasonal outage period is scheduled to begin early on October 5 to allow enough time to complete the reconstruction of Flumes 49 & 50. Water drawn down on the upper Lakes will begin early as well, September 6, to accommodate the scheduled seasonal outage. Tom Henie, General Manager for Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (KMPUD), asked whether EID

will maintain the 40 cfs outflow throughout the winter at Caples Lake. Mr. Slightham indicated that they would try, however the weather and water demands down stream will determine the actual flows. Caples Lake takes 48-hours to show a change in Lake level instead of the 24hr that most Lakes take. EID will start pulling spill boards from the Caples auxiliary dam in September.

Alice Howard reported Chris Shutes had expressed concerns about whether Oyster Pond leakage was factored into the Silver Lake outflows. Mr. Slightam explained that as of this morning Oyster Pond leakage, gaged at Silver Lake Campground, was 9 cfs which is factored into the Silver Lake outflow for purposes of Lake and streamflow projections. Once the new license required gauging plan is implemented the Silver Lake Campground gauging station will be moved to Highway 88. There is a temporary gauge at Hwy 88 now.

## **FISH ENHANCEMENT FUND REPORT**

Tom Henie (KMPUD) reviewed the overall purpose of the Fish Enhancement Fund and reported that successful fish plantings had occurred on June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> at both Caples and Silver Lakes. Mr. Henie also reported that fishing at both these lakes appeared to be excellent at this time.

Dick Wentzel, ERC member, requested a complaint be reflected in the minutes. Mr. Wentzel stated he thought we were operating under the collaborative agreement, even though the FERC License had not been issued. Drawing down the lake prior to the collaborative agreement schedule will shorten the fall boating season and affect the final fish planting of 2005.

A discussion ensued regarding the remaining two plantings for 2005. There was general agreement that the next planting should go 100% to Silver Lake and the last planting of 2005, 100% to Caples Lake in October, if lake levels are lowered significantly in September. Robert Hughes, Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) will discuss with Stafford Lehr, CDFG, and report any issues or concerns to Cheri Jagers by August 29.

## **LICENSE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT**

Cheri Jagers reviewed with the ERC a hand-out setting forth the license conditions that are to be accomplished within one year of license issuance.

Condition 34: Caples Lake releases will be worked on shortly. EID is in the process of hiring an engineer and is working with the U.S. Forest Service and FERC to implement this plan.

Minimum Streamflows: EID is ready to implement upon issuance of license.

Condition 62: Updating Forest Service Special-Use Authorization. EID and USFS are working together to develop a special use permit for the pending license.

Condition 65: The tunnel ground water plan has been completed, and will be transmitted to FERC when license is issued.

Condition 39: Fish screening plans for Carpenter and Alder Creeks must be implemented within 6 months of license and has not yet been started.

Streamflow and Gaging: On October 18 EID will tour gaging sites on the Mokelumne Project. Robert Hughes (California Department of Fish & Game) may be joining Bill Slightam and Cheri Jagers. Information gained from the tour may be used in the development of EID's Streamflow and Reservoir Gaging Plan.

The Canal Fencing (Conditions 43), Noxious Weed (Condition 44), Recreation Implementation (Condition 46), Trails Management (Condition 58), and Transportation Management (Condition 57) plans have been drafted and should ready to submit to the resource agencies for approval by the time the license is issued by FERC.

The ERC will be involved in shaping and participating in the various monitoring plans required by Condition 37 which will comprise the bulk of the body of work for the ERC over the next year.

Len Marino inquired as to whether there is any item that is 3-5 years out that we should be thinking about. Cheri indicated that there are a couple of things EID is working ahead of schedule on, such as the land adjustment proposal (Condition 61) due within 2 years of license and Caples boat launch facility (condition 50.4) due within 7 years of license.

## **2005 AMPHIBIAN MONITORING PLAN**

Dick Wentzel inquired as to the consultants EID is presently using for monitoring. Dan Corcoran, EID Environmental Review Division Manager, reported Garcia & Associates are completing the monitoring this season. Mr. Corcoran explained the strategy of how and why consultants will be hired and used for various aspects of the monitoring plans.

The first round of surveying for Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs has been conducted. The second round is currently underway and the third round is set for the latter part of this year. EID surveyed Mountain Yellow-legged frogs in 2004, but will not survey them in 2005 as it is not required by the Settlement Agreement until year 5.

Mr. Corcoran explained that EID had begun monitoring in 2004 under the presumption that the license issuance was imminent. Going forward for the purpose of determining compliance with the settlement agreement the ERC, EID, and resource agencies agree that 2004 will be considered year one of monitoring<sup>1</sup>. The tables below, illustrating the agreed upon 2005 monitoring sites, were reviewed.

---

<sup>1</sup> To be consistent with the settlement agreement, 2004 can not technically be designated year 1, as the corresponding new license flows were not yet implemented. See the October 25, 2005 meeting notes for further discussion on this topic.

Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Sampling Summary					
	2002	Settlement Agreement	2004	2005	Refined Site Description
SFAR at Akin Powerhouse (105R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	
SFAR upstream of Akin Powerhouse (110R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Silver Creek (115T)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Up to 0.5 mile from confluence depending on suitable habitat
SFAR upstream of Silver Creek (120R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Solider Creek (125T)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Up to 0.5 mile from confluence depending on suitable habitat
Ogilby Creek (210DT)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Up to 0.5 mile from confluence depending on suitable habitat
SFAR at Maple Grove (220R)	Y	Y	Y	Y	
SFAR downstream of Alder Creek (246R)		Y <sup>2</sup>	Y		
SFAR upstream of Fry Creek (251R)		Y <sup>2</sup>	Y		
SFAR downstream of Carpenter Creek (266R)		Y <sup>2</sup>	Y		
SFAR upstream of Carpenter Creek (271R)		Y <sup>2</sup>	Y		
SFAR at Soldier Creek (124R)				Y	
SFAR at Ogilby Creek (207R)	Y		Y		
SFAR upstream of Ogilby Creek (213R)	Y		Y	Y	
SFAR at Cleveland Corral (235R)	Y		Y		

<sup>2</sup> Settlement Agreement required sampling between Kyburz Diversion Dam and Alder Creek, but did not specify actual sampling sites. Sites were determined later by the ERC.

<b>Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Sampling Summary</b>					
	2002	Settlement Agreement	2004	Future	Refined Site Description
Echo Lake – Camp Harvey and assoc. ponds (440 T/L)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Up to 0.5 mile from confluence depending on suitable habitat
Silver Lake (750LP)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Southern and eastern shorelines
Camp Silverado (753IT)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Up to 0.5 mile from confluence depending on suitable habitat
Unnamed Silver Lake Tributary (752IT)				Y	Up to 0.5 mile from confluence depending on suitable habitat
Caples Lake (895LP)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Southern shoreline
Lake Aloha and assoc. downstream ponds (550LP)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Southern shoreline; add tributary along western shoreline; coordinate ponds with CDFG
Upper Echo Lake (455LP)	Y		Y	Y	Vicinity of Camp Harvey Tributary
Emigrant Creek (897IT)	Y			Y	Up to 1.0 mile from confluence depending on suitable habitat

<b>Hardhead Sampling Summary</b>		
	2004	2005
Electrofishing Sites	120 meter site between Slab Creek Reservoir and Akin Powerhouse	120 meter site between Slab Creek Reservoir and Akin Powerhouse
Snorkel Sites	Pools 1, 2, 3	Pools 1, 2, 4 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Pool 4 will be defined as the next pool upstream with suitable habitat

Ms. Williams inquired as to when the results of the 2005 surveys will be posted. Dan Corcoran indicated that the preliminary results should be available for the October 25 ERC meeting similar to last year. An inquiry was made as to who at Garcia & Associates was performing the surveys. Joe Drennan is the primary contact for Garcia & Associates. Discussion ensued as to who the other primary contacts were and why are we using consultants other than ECORP. The ERC expressed interest in knowing when upcoming surveys would take place and would like to be notified.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

### **Fish Screen Damage Report**

Len Marino reminded the ERC about the failure of the fish screen on May 16 at Kyburz Diversion Dam. Since then design improvements have been made and implemented. The fish screens are now 100% functional and were completed a day prior to FERC compliance deadline. EID appreciated the feedback and cooperation from the agencies during the implementation of project.

### **Fish Ladder Operations**

Fish Pros, a subsidiary of HDR Engineering, has been retained to evaluate the Kyburz Diversion Dam fish ladder. Robert Hughes (CDF&G) attended Fish pros on-site testing on the fish ladder operations. Robert Hughes contributed valuable insight as to how to improve ladder operations including a spreadsheet, which EID will be using that as part of the report preparation. The progress report due to FERC by September 1 will be sent in advance to Robert Hughes and Jann Williams for their comments to be included in the final report.

### **Flume 49 & 50 Replacement**

Len Marino explained, many wooden flumes are aged and need replacing, and will be replaced over the next five years. Flume 49 & 50 is a 1,200 foot flume section at Camp 5. The current flumes and spillway between flumes 49 and 50 will be replaced with a modern automated spillway. This new automated spillway will be the standard for EID future spillway replacement. All construction will be on EID property at Camp 5.

### **Spillway 20**

Construction on Spillway 20 began last summer and should be completed by October 15, 2005. Work is progressing very well. The control house is presently going up. The hydraulic pressure unit to operate the spillway should be completed the first week of September.

### **Echo Tunnel**

Due to a partial tunnel collapse in the Berkeley Camp area, the Echo Tunnel has been rendered unusable. EID's Board is expected to declare emergency allowing expedient repair of the tunnel. Discussion ensued with regards to the repair of the tunnel. The Echo Tunnel repair options include slip lining the tunnel with a 36" HDPE pipe.

Alice Howard inquired as to coliform contamination in the tunnel. Water samples were taken from the tunnel in fall 2004. Results indicated coli form was present with levels becoming progressively higher towards the downstream end. EID has contacted the USFS, the two agencies will work cooperatively together to research and resolve the coliform source. Everyone wants this issue resolved quickly. Dan Corcoran indicated that all the septic systems are required to be closed (or pumped-out) systems.

## **OCTOBER 2005 MEETING AGENDA DISCUSSION**

Cheri Jagers proposed that the preliminary 2005 aquatic monitoring results be placed on the agenda for the October meeting and called for agenda items for the ERC.

Richard Wentzel requested status reports on the CIPs at the next ERC meeting. Len Marino advised that the CIPs will be a standing agenda item.

Leonard Turnbeaugh, Alpine county Public Works, would appreciate having the Caples Boat Launch Facility as a standing item for Alpine County.

Beth Paulson requested Caples Lake Spillway and Pulse Flows be put on the October Agenda.

Beth Paulson requested ERC protocols be added to the October Agenda.

## **2006 MEETING SCHEDULE DISCUSSION**

Cheri Jagers proposed that the meeting schedule again include meetings in February, May, August, and October meetings. The annual meeting would be held in February, and the May meeting would focus on the water year. Given the amount of monitoring plans to be reviewed and approved, additional working group meetings may need to be scheduled in 2006.

Ms. Jagers will review the calendar and prepare a draft 2006 ERC meeting schedule for the October meeting. Dan Corcoran proposed Wednesdays as the best day for ERC meetings in 2006. The ERC members in attendance concurred that a meeting schedule based on the 2005 schedule meeting on Wednesdays would be an acceptable draft.

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Next meeting will be on October 25, 2005.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The ERC meeting officially adjourned at 11:25 am.